

REMARKS

This communication is a full and timely response to the non-final Office Action dated October 14, 2005.

Applicant would like to remind the Examiner to examine claim 4 which was added to the application in the Amendment that was filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on July 26, 2005.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Ozaki et al., U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001-0031658 in view of Nakayama et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,258,844), Kim (U.S. Patent No. 5,691,788) and Nakayamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,768,095). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Ozaki discloses a gaming machine having a main frame 14 that is divided into a top section 14a, a middle section 14b, and a bottom section 14c. The middle section 14b has a square opening 24 in which a front panel 26 is fitted. Transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c are stacked behind the back face of the front panel 26 and constitute a front panel display. An intermediate panel 27 is behind the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c. An EL display control 50g displays overlapping patterns and gaming information on the transparent EL panels 28a, 28b, and 28c based on display data. A light source 26 is located above a reflective plate 25, and a light source 9 is located behind the reflective plate 25. Light emitted by the light source 9 passes through the reflective plate to the EL panels, while light emitted from the light source 26 is reflected by the reflective plate 25.

Nakayama teaches a video camera apparatus that includes a pickup lens system, an image pickup element, a liquid crystal display panel, a light source, a first guide device, a second guide device and a selector. The pickup lens system picks up light from an object. The image pickup element picks up the light from the pickup lens system and converts the light into an image signal. The liquid crystal display panel displays an image of the light picked up by the pickup lens system and the image pickup element. The light source irradiates light on the liquid crystal display panel when a display image on the liquid crystal display panel is to be projected. The first guide device defines a first guide path for guiding light from the light source to the pickup lens

system through the liquid crystal display panel so that the display image on the liquid crystal display panel is projected through the pickup lens system. The second guide device defines a second guide path for guiding the light picked up by the pickup lens system directly to the image pickup element without passing the light through the liquid crystal display panel. The selector selectively operates one of the first and second guide devices to cause light to pass through one of the first and second guide paths.

Kim teaches a liquid crystal display that includes a backlight, a liquid crystal cell, a diffusion plate, a first opaque material and a black matrix. The diffusion plate diffuses light after passing through the liquid crystal cell. The diffusion plate is made of a transparent plate on which transparent material is ruggedly coated. The first opaque material is irregularly coated with a predetermined density on the diffusion plate. The black matrix of second opaque material is printed on the diffusion plate with a pattern corresponding to a shape of the liquid crystal cell.

Nakayamura discloses a portable information processing apparatus that includes a main body having a keyboard on an upper face and a lid hinged rotatably with the main body at a rear edge of the main body. The lid includes a front lid portion, a back lid portion, a latching device and a switching device. In the front lid portion, a liquid crystal display panel, a driver for driving the liquid crystal display panel and a backlight are mounted. In the back lid portion, a light diffuser for diffusing light emitted by the backlight is mounted. The latching device latches the back lid portion to the front lid portion. The latching device is only accessible to the user when the lid is in an open position, thereby inhibiting the removal of the back lid portion when the lid is closed against the main body. The switching device detects the removal of the back lid portion and for cuts off a drive current to the backlight in response to the removal of the back lid portion.

Claim 1 is directed to a gaming machine that includes variable display device, a transparent liquid crystal display panel, a liquid crystal holder, a light guiding plate, diffusion sheet, a frame, a transparent plate and a rear holder. Claim 1 recites that the variable display device variably displays designs, the transparent liquid crystal display panel is disposed in front of the variable display device through which the variable display device is able to be seen and the liquid crystal holder in a form of a rectangular frame member holds only a periphery of the liquid crystal display panel in a pressing

manner. Claim 1 also recites that the light guiding plate guides light emitted from a light source to the rear side of the liquid crystal display panel with the light source disposed outside yet adjacent to a guiding plate periphery of the light guiding plate. Also, claim 1 recites that the diffusion sheet diffuses the light guided by the light guiding plate to equalize the light which illuminates the liquid crystal display panel with the diffusion sheet disposed between the light guiding plate and the liquid crystal holder and the frame attaches in front of the machine for supporting and surrounding the liquid crystal holder, the light guiding plate and the diffusion sheet such that the front of a display unit of the liquid crystal display panel has an opening. Furthermore, claim 1 recites that the transparent plate is disposed in front of the frame for closing the opening and the rear holder holds the liquid crystal holder, the light guiding plate and the diffusion sheet supported by the frame on the frame from behind and reflects the light emitted on the light guiding plate to the side of the liquid crystal display panel. Additionally, claim 1 recites that the rear holder has one or more windows allowing the designs variably displayed in the variable display device to be observed and is facially opposed to the light guiding plate.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a liquid crystal holder in a form of a rectangular frame member holding only a periphery of the liquid crystal display panel in a pressing manner; a light source disposed outside yet adjacent to a guiding plate periphery of a light guiding plate; diffusion sheet disposed between the light guiding plate and the liquid crystal holder with a frame attaching in front of the machine for supporting and surrounding the liquid crystal holder and a rear holder being facially opposed to the light guiding plate. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-6 are allowable, and this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request favorable reexamination and reconsideration of the application. In the event the Examiner has any comments or suggestions for placing the application in even better form, Applicants request that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 18-0013, under Order No. SHO-0041 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: February 10, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Carl Schaukowitch

Registration No.: 29,211

Attorney for Applicant

RADER, FISHMAN & GRAUER, PLLC

Lion Building
1233 20th Street, N.W., Suite 501
Washington, D.C. 20036
Tel: (202) 955-3750
Fax: (202) 955-3751
Customer No. 23353

Enclosures: Amendment Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time (one month)

DC222850.DOC